

Message Text

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ACTION SCI-03

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SUBJECT: US-EGYPTIAN JWG ON MEDICAL COOPERATION

REF: STATE 201991; CAIRO 7401 AND 7171

PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
HEALTH CHARLES C. EDWARDS:

1. IN VIEW RECENT CABINET CHANGE INVOLVING, AMONG OTHERS,
MINISTER OF HEALTH, IT SEEMED DESIRABLE GIVE MAZEN A LITTLE
MORE TIME TO BRIEF NEW MINISTER FUAD MUHYIDIN ON BACKGROUND
OF JWG AND ON AGENDA FOR UPCOMING MEETING. HOWEVER,
WHEN I CALLED HIM SATURDAY, HE APOLOGETICALLY EXPLAINED HE
WAS JUST IN THE PROCESS OF SENDING THE MINISTER A MEMORANDUM
ON THE SUBJECT, AND HOPED HE COULD LET US HAVE
EGYPTIAN VIEWS ON DRAFT AGENDA IN "A FEW DAYS."

2. I HAVE HELD UP SUBMITTING SOME THOUGHTS OF MY OWN
IN THE HOPE THAT THEY MIGHT BE COMBINED WITH MAZEN'S IDEAS,
BUT IN VIEW EGYPTIAN DELAY, BELIEVE YOU SHOULD HAVE
THEM AT ONCE FOR CONSIDERATION. SPECIFICALLY, I SUGGEST
WE EXPLORE FOLLOWING:

A. POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING IN TIME FOR ANNOUNCE-
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MENT AT JWG, RESUMPTION OF HOLDING E.MF.M.G. IN CAIRO.

THESE USED TO BE GIVEN IN CAIRO SEMI-ANNUALLY, BUT WERE MOVED TO BEIRUT SOME YEARS AGO. THOUGH NOT A MAJOR ITEM, DOING SO WOULD BE RECOGNITION OF CAIRO'S IMPORTANCE AND WOULD HAVE SOME POSITIVE IMPACT HERE. RE PARA 1, STATE 216910, MAZEN DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH REQUEST HAVING BEEN MADE IN WASHINGTON.

B. POSSIBILITY OF EGYPT RECEIVING GRATIS OR AT LOW COST USED AMERICAN HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT. DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS IS PRACTICABLE, BUT SUCH EQUIPMENT -- IF STILL IN REASONABLY GOOD SHAPE -- WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL IN VILLAGE OR SMALL CITIES CLINICS AND HOSPITALS.

C. COOPERATION WITH GOE IN PHYSICAL REHABILITATION AND PROSTHETICS IN WHICH I UNDERSTAND US, AND ESPECIALLY US MILITARY, HAS GREAT EXPERTISE. THIS IS PURPOSE OF MADAME SADAT'S WAFI WAL-AMAL PROJECT AND WOULD THEREFORE ALSO BE SUPPORT FOR THAT EFFORT.

D. ASSISTANCE TO MINISTRY OF HEALTH IN PROVIDING CIVILIAN OR MILITARY TRAINING EXPERTS AND/OR SYLLABI TO PUT FINISHING TOUCHES ON MINISTRY OF HEALTH TECHNICAL SCHOOL GRADUATES. I KNOW, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT US NAVY SCHOOLS FOR LAB, X-RAY, MEDICAL REPAIR, ETC. HAVE PROBABLY THE FASTEST AND MOST THOROUGH TRAINING AVAILABLE WITH FULLY DEVELOPED LECTURE PLANS. IF FEASIBLE IN PRINCIPLE, MODALITIES OF PROVIDING SUCH EXPERT ASSISTANCE COULD DOUBTLESS BE WORKED OUT WITH GOE.

E. RE STATE 216910, I AM WRITING TO GENERAL BADR-AL-DIN ASKING FOR DETAILS NEEDED. IF THESE ARE AVAILABLE BY TIME JWG CONVENES, SUBJECT MIGHT ALSO BE DISCUSSED. PLACEMENT FOR HIGHER MEDICAL TRAINING MIGHT ALSO BE OFFERED FOR QUALIFIED CIVILIAN DOCTORS.

F. HOPE JWG WILL ALSO TAKE CLOSE LOOK AT PROPOSAL OF PREVIOUS MINISTER OF HEALTH TO MAKE NASR INSTITUTE INTO A JOINT US-EGYPTIAN INSTITUTE FOR POST GRADUATE MEDICAL TRAINING. NOTE NASR INSTITUTE MENTIONED IN FINAL WASHINGTON TALKS COMMUNIQUE, AND I BELIEVE MAZEN WILL HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS DIRECTOR AT SOME OR ALL JWG MEETINGS.

3. ADDITIONALLY, I THINK YOU SHOULD HIGHLIGHT EXCELLENT COOPERATIVE WORK NAMRU HAS BEEN DOING HERE FOR A QUARTER CENTURY AND STRESS OUR EXPECTATION THIS WILL CONTINUE TO OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT.

(I WOULD LIKE TO SEE

NAMRU ACTIVITIES BROADENED.)

4. FINALLY -- FOR NOW -- IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IF ONR
COULD BE BROUGHT INTO THE MEDICAL COOPERATION EXERCISE.
WHILE NAMRU HAS A GENERAL ASSOCIATION WITH IT, I HAVE
IMPRESSION ONR MIGHT BE ABLE AND WILLING BROADEN ITS
ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. FOR EXAMPLE, ONR AND MINISTRY OF
HEALTH ARE ALREADY JOINTLY SPONSORING AN INTERNATIONAL
SCHISTOSOMIASIS SYMPOSIUM IN DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR,
USING S.F.C.P. FUNDS.
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